

Lancaster Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1938.



Lancaster :
Guardian Printing Works.

Lancaster Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the

LANCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1938 on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District.

This is an ordinary Report and is based on the requirements of Circular 1728 dated 25th October, 1938, from the Ministry of Health.


I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29778141>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

JAMES LITTLEFAIR (Retired 31/3/1938) *

KENNETH H. DOCTON (1/4/1938) † *

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

CLIFFORD HYDE *

* Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Instn. Municipal and County Engineers.

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA of the District (Acres)	53,317
POPULATION (Census 1931)	9,697
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate 1938)	9853
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(Census 1931)	2,396
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(End of 1938 according to Rate Books) ...	3,030
Number of Families or separate occupiers	
(Census 1931)	2,454
RATEABLE VALUE	£56,451
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£158

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District are:

Agricultural Work.
Textile Work.
Railway Work.
Building Work.
Quarrying.

There are no evidences of an excess of unemployment in the district.

There is no particular occupation having an influence on the health of the inhabitants.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	Males	Females
Live Births (Legitimate)	140	79	61
(Illegitimate)	7	4	3
Total	147	83	64
Birth-Rate per 1,000 population	14.9		
Stillbirths	7	4	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	45		
Deaths	130	71	59
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	*13.1		

Deaths from puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	6.49
Total	1	6.49

Death-rate of Infants under one year, per 1,000 live births :—

All	40
Legitimate	42
Illegitimate	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal- mortality rate.		
	Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1000 total (live and still) births	Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live births.
Mean of 5 yrs. 1933-1937	14.4	14.3	0.59	1.60	5.72	5.46	64
Year—1937	14.4	14.9	0.71	1.42	14.08	13.60	49
Year—1938	14.9	*13.1	0.10	1.52	6.80	6.49	40
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on—5 yrs. average, 1933-1937 :	+0.5	—1.2	—0.49	—0.08	+1.08	+1.03	—24
Previous year	+0.5	—1.8	—0.61	+0.10	—7.28	—7.11	—9
* 1938 adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor 0.86) =11.2 per 1,000.							

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES IN THE YEAR 1938.

	Male.	Female.	Total
ALL CAUSES	71	59	130
Influenza	2	1	3
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	1	2
General Paralysis of the insane, etc. ...	1	—	1
Cancer	6	9	15
Diabetes	2	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	2	5
Heart Disease	19	19	38
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	2	9
Bronchitis	—	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	1	6
Puerperal Diseases	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature birth, etc	—	3	3

	Male.	Female	Total.
Senility	5	7	12
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Violence	6	3	9
Other Defined Diseases	8	4	12

{Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	1	5	6
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and other Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University at Manchester. Analysis of Foodstuffs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Diseases:— The Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board's Ambulance is available.

Other Cases:—Lancaster Corporation (Watch Committee) Ambulance is available on payment of 1/- per mile for cases outside the City Boundary.

(c) **Professional Nursing in the Home.** The District is provided for by the respective Nursing Associations. The Council does not assist them financially.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** None in the Area. Tuberculosis patients are dealt with at the Lancashire County Council Dispensary, 8 Middle Street, Lancaster.

The nearest Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Diseases is at Preston Royal Infirmary.

(e) **Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.**

Infectious Diseases:—The Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and the Smallpox Hospital of the Lancaster City Corporation, are available, by arrangement.

Other Cases:—The Royal Lancaster Infirmary (Voluntary Hospital) situated in Lancaster City.

4.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply—

Authority from which supply obtained.
Source of supply.

Nature of supply (e.g., moorland, deep wells, etc.)

Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

Is supply of district satisfactory?

Constant or intermittent.
Approx. No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private)

Possibilities of contamination.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Any liability to plumbosolvent action.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year?

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.

Have these waters been examined during the year?

Any insufficiency, and where.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.

Lancaster Corporation, Manchester Corporation, Fylde Water Board, Carnforth Waterworks Co. Also wells, roof water, etc.

In bulk from above.

None.

(a) In quality—Yes, as regards water mains.

(b) In quantity—Yes, as regards water mains.

Water mains supplies constant.

Impossible to estimate owing to rapid changes.

(a) Direct from main: 186 more during the year. (b) By stand pipe, 45.

Nil.

Bacteriological examinations: Nil.

Chemical analyses: Nil.

Impossible to estimate—186 less than last year.

Bacteriological examinations: Nil.

Chemical analyses: Two. Results: One (Roof) Water—Satisfactory; One (Roof)—Unsatisfactory.

Parts of Parish of Ellel. Estimate obtained for cleaning mains.

Extensions in Parishes of Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne and Silverdale completed.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system. and reason therefor.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.

Parish of Slyne-with-Hest, percolating filter. Other parishes, sedimentation tanks and filters. Others direct to sea.

Parish of Middleton, length of sewer renewed. Septic tank and filter constructed. Parishes of Warton, Slyne-with-Hest and Bolton-le-Sands, extensions for building developments.

All except Slyne with-Hest, Ellel, Cockerham, Bolton-le-Sands, Warton and Middleton.

General and continuous. All new sewers and drains subjected to water under pressure test.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sources and nature of pollution.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution?

Frequent inspections. Septic tank and filter constructed at Middleton to prevent pollution of dyke (sewage from village).

Drainage from Cheese Factories (Ellel); drainage from Village (Middleton).

No.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1938 (In this connection note figures at end of 1937)

Privy Middens.—No. of middens 390; No. of closets attached to these middens 717. Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres?—No.

No. of pail closets—330.

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)—40.

No. of movable ashbins—1,515.

No. of houses on water carriage system—2,299.

No. of fresh water closets—2,283.

No. of waste water closets—16.

Conversions—

	During year 1938	During 5 years 1933-37.
--	------------------------	-------------------------------

No. of Privy Closets:

To Fresh W.C.'s	10	113
-----------------------	----	-----

To Waste W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
-----------------------	------	------

To Pails, etc.	5	12
---------------------	---	----

No. of Pail Closets:

To Fresh W.C.'s	Nil.	4
-----------------------	------	---

To Waste W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
-----------------------	------	------

No. of Waste W.C.'s to

Fresh W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
--------------------	------	------

No. of houses at which

movable ashbins have

been substituted for

fixed receptacles	150	236
-------------------------	-----	-----

Yes. In parishes where sufficient water supply and sewers are available.

Yes.

Half Cost (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936).

Public Cleansing—

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.

The whole of the district is Scavenged by a Contractor with covered lorries. By the Contractor, as above.

<p>(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse.</p> <p>(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies.</p> <p>(e) The method of cleansing cesspools.</p> <p>(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents.</p> <p>If a destructor is provided, state situation.</p> <p>State - whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses?</p> <p>Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements?</p> <p>Are motor vehicles used?</p> <p>If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?</p> <p>Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging?</p>	<p>Controlled Tipping.</p> <p>Controlled Tipping. (Material from excavations in neighbourhood of tips used to cover refuse periodically).</p> <p>Contractor in Parish of Silverdale. Other parishes by local farmers. Pumped into tank cart.</p> <p>On the land.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>House refuse and emptying of all dry closets carried out by contract.</p> <p>Owners of all houses provided with pail closet or W.C. given notice to provide movable receptacle for house refuse.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>By day.</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>Sanitary Inspections during 1938 (including Housing):</p> <p>No. of premises visited.</p> <p>Defects or nuisances.</p> <p>No. of notices served.</p> <p>Legal proceedings.</p>	<p>1,691.</p> <p>No. discovered 325. No. abated 222.</p> <p>Informal 241. Statutory 1.</p> <p>Nil.</p>
<p>Shops and Offices—</p> <p>Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:</p> <p>(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.</p> <p>(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. (See pages 3 and 4 of M. of H. Circular, 1600, dated 1st May, 1937).</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>Nil.</p>

Camping Sites— (a) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938. (b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938.	Twelve. Seven. 300.
Smoke Abatement— Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement. No. of factory and works chimneys in the district. No. of observations. No. of legal proceedings taken and result. Particulars of any co-operative action with industry. What is the time limit allowed per hour for the emission of black smoke?	Nil. Seven. Nil. Nil. Nil. No Bye-law.
Swimming Baths and Pools— Brief particulars of any: (a) Public swimming baths or pools. (b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public. (c) Action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water.	No public baths or pools in district. One. Parish of Silverdale. Nil.
Eradiction of bed bugs— Particulars of action taken during 1938: No. of houses found to be infested. No. of houses disinfested.	 Nil. Nil.
Schools— (a) Sanitary condition. (b) Water supply.	Satisfactory as far as system permits. All except two supplied Council's mains. Satisfactory. One to be provided, other has private piped spring supply.

Offensive Trades—	Nil.
Common Lodging houses—	No. on register—1. What is their condition?—Fair. Action taken—Notice served to make lodging-house fit in all respects. Date of bye-laws—December 1904. Are they adequate?—Yes.
Houses let in lodgings—	Nil.
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—	Sites inspected and licensed.
Underground Sleeping Rooms—	None.
Canal Boats—	Number inspected—Nil. No. of infringements of Acts—Nil.
Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928—	None.

5. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 63
 - (i) By the local authority Nil
 - (ii) By other local authorities Nil
 - (iii) By other bodies or persons 63
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :
 - (i) By the local authority (included under
 - (a) (i) above Nil
 - (ii) By other Bodies (included under (a)
 - (iii) above) Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 795
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1363
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 110
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 170
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 27
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 80

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 51

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 26
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners Nil

(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	*Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	199
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	20
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	20
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	125
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	18

* Refers only to action taken with regard to housing defects. Notices with regard to other premises, drainage, and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections.

6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk Supply is good. The Local Authority have not taken any samples of Milk on their own account, but 48 samples of the Milk delivered to the schools, under the Milk in Schools Scheme, have been taken on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. One of these samples was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli and further action was taken by the Lancashire County Council.

A systematic inspection of the 341 dairy farms in the area was commenced during the year and 73 inspections were made. Twenty-three notices were served for re-conditioning of farm buildings and all, except one, have so far been complied with. In four cases owners have voluntarily undertaken re-construction of existing shippens and 12 new shippens are being erected to replace old ones which were incapable of being re-conditioned.

There are in the area 341 cowkeepers and 3 dairymen who are not cowkeepers.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Notice of regular hours of slaughtering has been obtained from the occupiers of the 6 licenced Slaughterhouses in the area, with a view to carrying out, as far as possible, a systematic inspection. One new Slaughterhouse was licenced during the year. Practically all the meat from these Slaughterhouses is further inspected by the Lancaster City Authorities when exposed for sale.

21 visits were made to these Slaughterhouses during the year and also 12 visits were made to premises where Ice Cream is manufactured and sold.

(c) ADULTERATION, Etc.

This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is also undertaken by the Lancashire County Council.

(e) NUTRITION.

Various lectures have been given to Women's Institutes by the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and by the Health Propaganda Lecturer of the Lancashire County Council.

(f) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 Bakehouses in the area and their condition is satisfactory.

(g) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

The Cockle Beds in the area are liable to pollution and were closed in November, 1925.

7. Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever decreased by 30, and the cases of Diphtheria decreased by 14 on the figures for 1937.

Dolphinholme (4), Bay Horse (4), and White Lund (4), were the districts most affected with Scarlet Fever; whilst 3 of the cases of Diphtheria occurred in Over Wyresdale.

No Schick immunisation was carried out during the year.

A supply of Anti-Toxin for use in cases of Diphtheria is kept at a local Chemist's shop for the benefit of medical practitioners in the area.

Disinfection is carried out following notifiable infectious diseases and tuberculosis, but not Measles, and during the year 38 houses and 1 school were disinfected by Formalin spraying and fumigation.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1938 (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	All Ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	23	—	—	1	3	1	7	5	1	5	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ... (Acute Primary & Acute Influenzal).	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
	37	1	—	1	3	1	10	6	3	7	1	3	1

21 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Diphtheria and 1 of Puerperal Pyrexia were removed to Hospital.

There were no deaths during the year from Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1938.

Number of cases shewing Township in which occurring.

Disease.	Abbeystead.	Bay Horse.	Bolton-le-Sands.	Dolphinholme.	Ellel.	Galgate.	Glasson Dock.	Hest Bank.	Middleton.	Over Wyresdale.	Silverdale.	Thurnham.	Warton.	White Lund.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever	—	4	—	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	4	23
Diphtheria ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total ...	1	5	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	4	37

Number of Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified during the previous ten years.

	Scarlet Fever.					Diphtheria.				
1937	53	...	...	...	...	20
1936	30	...	...	...	...	36
1935	4	...	...	...	...	—
1934	5	...	...	...	...	16
1933	6	...	...	...	...	6
1932	5	...	...	...	...	1
1931	8	...	...	...	...	5
1930	31	...	...	...	...	8
1929	16	...	...	...	...	1
1928	9	...	...	...	...	3

CANCER.

No special action has been taken to impart information to the public relating to Cancer and facilities available for treatment, but cases are sent from the district to hospitals at Manchester and Liverpool.

15 deaths from Cancer, or approximately 1 in 9, occurred during the year, compared with 14, or 1 in 10.5, for the year 1937.

The following table gives details of the deaths from Cancer compared with the total deaths for the past 5 years:—

Year.		Total Deaths.		Cancer Deaths.
1934	.....	141	.....	17
1935	.....	136	.....	19
1936	.....	138	.....	12
1937	.....	147	.....	14
1938	.....	130	.....	15

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1938.

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age	Respiratory.		Other forms.			Respiratory.		Other forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	—	3	...	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	1	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	2	...	—	1	—	—
35—45	—	1	1	—	...	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
		2	4	4	5	...	—	1	1
Totals		6		9			1		1

Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

This work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health holds Clinics and Welfare Centres in various parts of the District.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspection.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
FACTORIES with mechanical power	44	2	Nil
FACTORIES without mechanical power	20	3	Nil
Total	64	5	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects.		Number	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	of Prosecu- tions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness	11	11	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences				
Insufficient	1	1	—	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	Nil
Not separt for sexes ...	1	1	—	Nil
Total	14	14	Nil	Nil

